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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lee *et al.* Examiner: Truong, Tamthom Ngo
Serial No.: 10/007,253 Group Art Unit: 1624
Filed: October 24, 2001
For: Water-Soluble Rhodamine Dye Conjugates
Customer No.:

23719

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Kalow & Springut LLP
488 Madison Avenue, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10022

January 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

SIR:

This Amendment and Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 14, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application. The time set for filing a response to the Office Action expired on October 14, 2003. Pursuant to the enclosed petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, the time set for filing a response now expires on January 14, 2004, and thus this reply is timely filed.

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Viola Hyland
(Signature)

Viola Hyland
(Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)

Jan. 13, 2004
(Date)